

The Out of Home Youth Advocacy Council

Creating Inclusive Systems for LGBTQ Youth and families

The Out of Home Youth Advocacy Council, or OHYAC, is working to improve care and outcomes for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth and families involved in the California foster care system. We have over 50 members from throughout the 5 Bay Area counties from a diverse array of organizations and agencies that serve or advocate for youth and families including, the California Youth Connection, the Bay Area Academy, California CASA, legal organizations, California Social Work Education Center, Bay Area county child welfare departments, individual judges and lawyers, foster family agencies, and the Administrative Office of the Courts, Center for Families, Children & the Courts.

In order to improve the care and outcomes for LGBTQ youth and families involved with the foster care system OHYAC is:

- Developing free **trainings** for foster care providers and child welfare workers on working with LGBTQ youth and families and their responsibilities under the new California Foster Care Nondiscrimination Act (AB 458)
- Creating a **bridge** with key statewide child welfare initiatives and organizations to ensure that the interests of LGBTQ youth and families are included in all foster care initiatives
- Developing and distributing free written **resources** that support the needs of LGBTQ youth and families involved with the California foster care system.

OHYAC can offer you:

- **Fact sheets** on LGBTQ youth experience in foster care and juvenile justice
- A **"Know Your Rights"** guide for LGBTQ youth in California foster care
- Information for providers and administrators on **AB 458**, including training requirements
- Short **presentations** to agencies, line staff, foster youth, administrators, or judicial officers on LGBTQ youth in foster care and/or the Foster Care Nondiscrimination Act

OHYAC resources that will be available soon:

- **Free trainings** (1 hour, half day, and full day) on working with LGBTQ youth for social workers, foster parents, group home administrators and anyone else who works with youth or families involved with the foster care system. We anticipate starting to offer these free trainings in the spring of 2005.
- A **resource directory** of services for LGBTQ youth in Bay Area foster care
- An **LGBT supportive poster** for posting in courtrooms, county offices, group homes and other agencies or organizations
- An OHYAC **website** with links and resources for supporting LGBTQ youth in foster care

For further information, to receive copies of our resources, or to become a member of OHYAC
CONTACT: OHYAC@nclrights.org or call 415-392-6257 X 308

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